

Inspection of Home Heating Oil Above Ground Storage Tanks

Home heating tanks can leak due to improper installation or maintenance and can lead to costly cleanups for the State and the environment. To avoid expensive oil spills, install new heating oil tank systems in accordance with National Fire Protection Association Code Standard 31 entitled "Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment" and perform routine maintenance on the tank system. The following checklist can aid you in proper maintenance of your home heating tank system. (Diagram on reverse should assist in identifying parts as you go through the checklist.)

Ask the following questions and if the answer to any of them is "NO," contact your oil dealer or burner technician. (It is best to contact a certified professional to correct the problem. Do not attempt to correct problems yourself.)

- _____ Are tank legs and foundation stable?
- _____ Is the tank surface free of rust, weeps, or excessive denting?
- _____ Is the area around the filter and valves free of drips or signs of leakage?
- _____ Are the oil lines between the tank and the furnace enclosed in protective tubing?
- _____ Is the tank protected from falling snow or ice?
- _____ Is the tank vent unclogged and free of ice, snow, corrosion, or insect nests?
- _____ Does the tank system have a vent alarm and is it working properly? (Ask oil delivery person if the alarm whistles when full.)
- _____ Are the areas around the fill pipe and vent pipe free of signs of spills?
- _____ Are you using an average amount of oil for your system? (Using more oil than normal usually indicates a problem with your system.)

As with all oil tank systems, call the Maryland Department of the Environment, Emergency Response Division at toll free 866-633-4686 in case of a spill.

Typical Above Ground Home Heating Oil Tank System

